

Bruin Bulletin

Blue Ridge CTC Student Newsletter



Happy New Year!!

Welcome to 2018! New year, new semester, and a brand new to-do list. If you resolve to make this year even better than the last, read on...

The start of a new year is a time to revisit the past and find a take-away, a lesson—something we can learn from and take forward with us. We reminisce and create meaningful memories. We become aware of the present moment, re-assess, evaluate, and set goals. We look forward with a sense of hope and excitement about what may lay ahead.

1

LOOKING BACK

Where have I been?

2

HERE AND NOW

Where am I now?

3

MOVING FORWARD

Where do I want to go?

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Outstanding Student Awards

Each semester, outstanding students are honored in a ceremony hosted by Blue Ridge CTC President, Dr. Peter Checkovich. To receive an award, a student must be nominated by an instructor who feels that the student displays exemplary performance and spirit in the classroom. The three ways to be recognized:

1. As an Outstanding Student of a Degree Program
2. As the Spirit of an Individual School
3. As the Student of the Semester for a School

The fall 2017 honorees are below (in alphabetical order by degree program). Congratulations, everyone!

Tiffany Boardman	Outstanding Student of Accounting
Zachary Haney	Outstanding Student of Baking and Pastry
Billy McPherson	Outstanding Student of Board of Governors
Annette Sibole	Outstanding Student of Business Operations
Matthew Kuse	Outstanding Student of Business Administration
Jessica Smallwood	Outstanding Student of Computer Application Specialist
Virginia Hayden	Outstanding Student of Criminal Justice
Susannah Lisk	Outstanding Student of Culinary Arts
David Barefoot	Outstanding Student of Cyber Security
Rachel Stottlemeyer	Outstanding Student of Education
Virginia Robbins	Outstanding Student of General Studies
Annabell Lee Rock	Outstanding Student of Healthcare Professions
Sierra Santamaria	Outstanding Student of Human Services
Richard Whitener	Outstanding Student of Information Technology
Annabell Lee Rock	Outstanding Student of Liberal Arts
Marci Hall	Outstanding Student of Paralegal Studies
Kevin Sturm	Outstanding Student of Physical Therapy Assisting
Anny Jenkins	Outstanding Student of Nursing
Jamie Ishman	Spirit of the School of Allied Health Sciences
Rachel Stottlemeyer	Spirit of the School of Professional Studies and University Transfer
Kailani Clark	Spirit of the School of Workforce and Engineering Technology
Annabel Lee Rock	Student of the Semester Allied Health
Rachel Stottlemeyer	Student of the Semester Professional Studies and University Transfer
David Barefoot	Student of the Semester Workforce and Engineering Technology

Denise Burditus: A Tribute to a Las Vegas Shooting Victim

Originally from Hedgesville, West Virginia, Denise Burditus was living in Martinsburg with her husband of over 30 years, Tony, and her family. Denise and Tony attended the Route 91 Harvest Country Music Festival in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017, where a gunman killed 59 and injured more than 500. Sadly, Denise was among the victims.

Denise Burditus, 50, was pursuing a Business Administration degree at Blue Ridge CTC. In a dedication ceremony on November 28, Blue Ridge CTC placed a brick carrying her name in the Main Campus walkway honoring her life and legacy.

Burditus was a dedicated student and beloved family member to her husband, children and numerous grandchildren. Social media posts indicate that she and her husband had been looking forward to the music festival for months.



Hygiene Drive: An Overwhelming Success

In December, Sara Gordon (Student Success Coordinator) organized a hygiene drive to benefit some of the victims of hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. Puerto Rico suffered what has been described as "apocalyptic devastation," and there are still hundreds of thousands in desperate need of help. This effort collected over 300 needed items, like toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, and some medications. The donations were taken to The Salvation Army who sent them to Puerto Rico and made sure the resources were received by those who need them.

Thank you to all who donated!

Remember to **pick up** your **BOOKS** at the **Tech Center** location!

BRCTC Technology Center
5550 Winchester Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25405

[Please note: There are NO textbooks at the Main Campus Bookstore.]

Picking up an online textbook order?

Bring your order confirmation email, order number, or box number with you to make the process quick and easy.

Purchasing your books in store?

Bring your printed schedule from BRIDGE and your student ID.

Renting textbooks?

Bring a valid credit card to secure the books.

Paying with financial aid?

You must have your current student ID.

Accepted methods of payment: credit card, cash, or financial aid.

NO CHECKS!

Remember to keep your receipt!

For important *return* information, see the Bookstore website:

brctc.edu/current-student/bookstore



Main Campus Front Desk—Your Information Station

The friendly faces behind the Welcome Desk are the ones you see as you enter the Main Campus building. They are also the courteous voices that answer the phones when you call the main Blue Ridge number. But did you know that the welcome desk is also a great place to direct general questions and to pick up and drop off some basic student forms?



Terri Swab, Program Assistant, and Maggie Stone, Student Records Assistant, are the Welcome Desk "veterans." Together, they have over five years' combined experience at BRCTC. You may see different faces at the Welcome Desk—always friendly, always knowledgeable.

For all you do—
Thanks Terri and Maggie!



"Success isn't a result of spontaneous combustion; you must set yourself on fire."

--Arnold H. Glasow



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Now's the time to complete your **FAFSA**

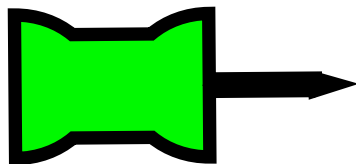
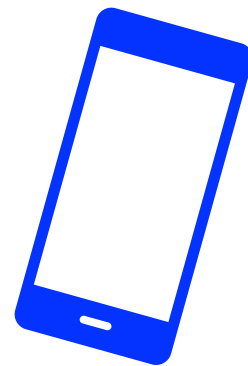
Planning to attend school during the **2018-2019** school year?

Complete your **FAFSA** online now at www.fafsa.gov.

For assistance, contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@blueridgectc.edu.



Enroll in **E2 Campus** Emergency Alert System to receive alerts on weather delays, closings, and other emergencies. To sign up, create an account on the BRCTC website ("About Blue Ridge," then "Safety and Security"), or text the word "**Safety**" to 79516.



Don't forget to wear your **ID badge** at all times for your safety and security!

Veteran Services

Blue Ridge CTC values its veterans, and its Veteran Services Office provides a wide range of accommodations. Its mission is to provide personal and academic support to all veterans of the U.S. military who wish to begin or continue their college education. It offers guidance during the admissions and financial aid processes, and provides a level of support that conveys our appreciation of veterans' service to our country.

Veteran Resource Center

Main Campus, room 2106

The Veteran Resource Center, established in the fall of 2017, resides at the Main Campus in room 2106. The Center is not only the home of the Student Veteran Association, but it also provides a space for veterans to meet and work (computers and printers are available). It is open Monday through Saturday (hours below). For forms, important links, or for more information about eligibility and tuition assistance, email vetsource@blueridgectc.edu.

Spring hours of operation:

Monday: 0730 to 0930 & 1500 to 2200
 Tuesday: 0730 to 0930 & 1930 to 2200
 Wed: 0730 to 1100 & 1800 to 2200
 Thursday: 0730 to 0930 & 1500 to 2200
 Friday: 0730 to 0930 & 1830 to 2200
 Saturday: Main Campus Hours



Meet our Veteran Education Coordinator and faculty advisor for the Student Veteran Association, Britney Norris. A veteran of the Army Reserves herself, she says she took this job to assist others with understanding the complications of the GI Bill, and with managing other available financial aid options, so that they would have more help than she had as a veteran student.



"I want our veterans to be able to concentrate on their classes and not have to worry about their veteran tuition benefits," she explains. Norris coordinates her efforts with Financial Aid and other student services to make sure that vets use all needed resources available to them.

Ms. Norris studied at Frostburg State and is currently completing her master's degree in teaching at Shepherd University. Her office resides in the Enrollment Management department at the Main Campus. She has been at Blue Ridge CTC since November of 2015. For further information about veteran benefits or the SVA, contact Britney Norris at bnorris@blueridgectc.edu.

Stay Connected with the Student Veteran Association by "liking" us on [Facebook!](#)

New Year's Resolution: Get Involved!

Group membership has many benefits, like networking, making friends who share your interests, gaining valuable leadership experience, and building a strong and cohesive college community. Check out all of the clubs and organizations here at the Ridge:

Allied Health Club	Rotaract
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Space Club
Phi Beta Lambda	Student Activities Board
Phi Theta Kappa	Student Nurses Assoc.
Technology Club	Student Veterans Assoc.

If you don't see a club or organization that suits your needs and/or interests, consider taking the lead and starting a new one!

Begin by answering these questions to help you prepare for the registration process.

1. What is your group's purpose?
2. What will be your group's goals, and how will you accomplish those goals?
3. Who else do you know who would like to join this new group?
4. What type of commitment will members need to make for this group?
5. How will you identify and recruit members?
6. Who will serve as the group's advisor(s)?

If you are unclear about how to answer any of these questions, or would like general assistance, please contact Sara Gordon at sgordon@blueridgectc.edu. Be sure to check out the Club and Organizational Fair, February 5 and 6, from 11-12pm at the Main Campus!

Campus Conservation Committee Needs Your Help

A new committee has been created recently, and you are invited to join their efforts to positively impact our campus and our community. This committee is open to all students, faculty and staff. For more information about joining the Campus Conservation Committee, please contact Amanda Carrell at acarrell@blueridgectc.edu.



"It's not easy being green."

Did You Know??

1. ***An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!***
2. ***Americans typically throw out around 25 million plastic bottles per year.***
3. ***Americans generate over 20 million tons of food waste each year.***

**REMEMBER:
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**



What's Next After Blue Ridge CTC?

Thinking of transferring to a four-year institution after graduation? Blue Ridge faculty and staff work constantly to create partnerships with these institutions so that interested students can transfer smoothly and easily after graduation.

The following is a list of universities who recently entered into articulation agreements with Blue Ridge CTC:



Frostburg State University
 Grand Canyon University
 Marshall University
 Ohio Valley University
 Rennes School of Business, France
 Shenandoah University
 Shepherd University
 Southern New Hampshire University
 West Virginia University

For a full list of the 30+ participating institutions and details about qualifying programs and classes, please visit the "Transfer Articulation" page on the Blue Ridge CTC website:
<http://www.blueridgectc.edu/current-students/transfer-articulation-2/transfer-articulation/>.

What Else is New?

Not all valuable college experiences happen in the classroom. Spend some time this semester stepping outside of your comfort zone and visit one of these outstanding opportunities for growth and fun.

Spring Workshops: Check out these chances to expand your horizons!

Up Soon:

Jan 24	What's Your Learning Style?	11-12pm 3-4pm	HQ 2101 T25
Feb 1	Lunch and Learn: Addiction/Recovery	11-12pm	room 2101
Feb 5-6	Club and Organizational Fair	9-4pm	HQ/TC
Feb 13	Random Acts of Kindness Day	all day	HQ/TC
Feb 15	The Power of Journaling	10-11pm 1-2pm	room T25 room 2105

Coming in March:

Mar 13	Color Me Calm	all day	HQ/TC
Mar 14	Lunch and Learn: PTSD	11-12pm	room 2101
Mar 20	Adam Booth: Storyteller	6:30-7:30pm	HQ